

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, at the invitation of Mayor Gippy Graham, citizens met at the University of Kentucky Extension office to respond to the following question: **“What can city government do to make Frankfort a place people want to be?”**

The participants were intermingled and divided into eight groups. After an initial brainstorming session, each group’s list was rotated to another group with instructions to reduce the brainstorming list to five recommendations. A second rotation resulted in reducing the five to three and prioritizing them. In the final rotation each of the various groups represented came together and selected their group’s top priority.

The information will be shared with the city commission and the city manager, who attended the activity, will also share the results with the departments of city government

## **Participant List**

Brian Boisseau  
Ginny Wilson  
Tony Massey  
Eddie Sayre  
Sara Elliott  
Jill Robinson  
Nicky Hughes  
Tim Ford  
Scot Walters  
Jim Wallace  
Eric M. Burke  
Jim Morehead  
Bill Braden  
Ed Councill  
Kelly Everman  
Deborah White  
Roger Stapleton  
Patricia VanSant  
Kim Cowherd  
Ann Wingrove

Russ Wright  
Barry Holder, Jr.  
Charles Booe  
Sellis Wilder  
Phil Kerrick  
Jane Julian  
Tom Fugate  
Rex Fowler  
Michele Prince  
Gregg Stratton  
Jim Terrell  
Cecie Chadwell  
Pete Dyhan  
Bill Leroy  
Jeff Hancock  
Sally Jump  
Greg Meyer  
Linda Brown  
Phyllis Liebman  
Jim Johnson

Ivory J. Griskell  
Jonathan Vaught  
Patti Porter  
Connie Lemley  
Hank Hancock  
Carman Inman  
Gil Thurman  
Brent Sweger  
Terry Sutton  
Harry Carver  
John Gray  
Joel Schrader  
Mark Schmitt  
Bruce Cassidy  
Suzanne Simmons  
Paula Miller  
Beth Avent  
Kevin Mason

Facilitators: Gippy Graham, Karen Schmalzbauer

# Brainstorming Session

More open government/city employees/citizen communication  
Easier flow of permitting process for businesses  
Enhance physical attractiveness of city  
Hire ombudsman to assist citizens with communication/process  
Distinguish between city/state  
Tax incentives to lure/keep businesses/citizens to come to Frankfort  
Simplify code system for better understanding  
City government become more involved in community  
Enhance better transportation/one way streets/parking/signage  
Unify city/county planning department  
Maintain a balance of historic and future development  
Educate public awareness of city government process  
Use Kentucky State University  
    A. Athletic events - promotions  
    B. Aquaculture - promotions  
    C. Education programs promotions  
    D. Change community attitude of college  
    E. Students as mentors  
Increase safety of city by helping at-risk children  
    A. Mentors  
    B. Funding for programs  
    C. Educate community about at-risk kids  
Need for arts center with meeting rooms, events  
    A. Need extra space - all purpose hall, theatre  
    B. Community performing arts center  
    C. Parking  
Expand comprehensive plan to include current plan/update more often/update zoning plans  
Offer a place for homeless to go within the city/community center  
Amend ordinance to provide a 5% premium to local business that bid on city bids  
Hire a communication's director to explain/disperse information on city government  
Improve relations between city/county government and surrounding city/county governments  
Address issue of property ownership - city vs. county  
Encourage cultural growth in the arts -city (\$) - KSU  
Improve countywide organized cleanup of litter/trash  
Develop Lock 4  
Performing arts center - river  
Proactive on downtown parking  
Taxes affordable  
Segregate state government from city (individuality)  
Promote and develop walking trails (Fort Hill)  
Proactive on downtown parking  
Address the McClure building  
Develop/brand marketing campaign for Frankfort  
Better pools

Develop the old post office into river center or tie it in  
 Build justice center on old Model Laundry site  
 Seek ways to improve city/KSU relationship  
 More attractive entrances/gateways into city  
 Fix sewers  
 Strengthen coordination of drug abuse prevention (education, enforcement, treatment)  
 Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (family bike trails, waterways, pool)  
 Entrance bridges (attractiveness, lighting)  
 Fiscal responsibility  
 Smart growth, interconnectivity  
 Fix sidewalks  
 Progressive, creative climate to retain/attract youth  
 Maintain healthy tree canopy  
 Larger street signs  
 Encourage immigration  
 City abide by same ordinances as private citizens (design, construction)  
 Increase marketing for events as well as ongoing  
 Improve lighting downtown  
 Utilize Frankfort Civic Convention Center with entertainment  
 More public restrooms downtown  
 Restaurant Weeks (themes, discounts, cooperative advertising)  
 Unique and consistent tourist transportation  
 Easy clearing house for citizens to find good contractors  
 Focus on rental properties (property owners and renters)  
 Water park  
 Consistent code enforcement  
 Update property codes  
 Sponsor more events with better coordination (staff position?)  
 Improve parking (add more/parking crisis)  
 Find a use for old post office  
 Sunday liquor sales (package)  
 Improve trash pickup downtown and city  
 Reorganize historic walking/driving tours with ending location at a rest and interpretive architectural/cemetery etc.  
 Work with state to address homelessness (give one agency oversight over various shelters)  
 Local merchants support KSU (carry KSU merchandise)  
 Pressure/encourage owners of empty buildings downtown to fill/use their properties  
 No tax increases  
 Franklin County board of Education/Vocational School  
 Business ombudsman (one stop shop)  
 Provide city riverfront development group with documented assurance that the Dix Dam is safe  
 Checklist for incoming businesses  
 More parking spaces/enforcement downtown  
 Aquatic center in Lakeview  
 RJ Corman commuter train  
 Educate community regarding available assets at KSU

Bike lanes  
Address sewer infrastructure  
City control utility rates  
Provide essential services (police, fire services available at all times)  
Shopping locally - keep local available so not to loose business  
Create entrepreneurial environment  
Promote arts and cultural activities  
One stop business ombudsman for permits, etc. Make it easy to do business.  
Citizens feel ownership in government  
Opportunity to participate  
Responsible land use planning  
Enhance Junior Chamber of Commerce - more effective efforts (voice resources)  
Real commitment to public  
Education  
Technical schools, community education for entire community (not just traditional schools)  
More recreation on river for non-boating people  
Utilize retirees better before they leave Frankfort  
Tourism ambassador program: Lexington Frankfort tourism chamber  
Arts and cultural keep young people here  
Provide more arts and cultural opportunities here - local  
Ombudsman for private citizen - direction for city services (direction, instruction, etc.)  
Promoter unique gaps/needs for local business (fill the gaps)  
Bike friendly city - promote paths  
Keep people who work here (state) here  
Buy more green space/livable neighborhood/developments  
Directory of local organizations/community services (web site)  
Public policy that celebrates entrepreneurship  
Regular community meetings to build bridges with different parts of the community  
More activities for kids downtown  
Create a sense that we are able to create our future (Frankfort we want)  
Create more incentives for historic downtown development  
Enhance partnership with KSU  
Develop a stronger tie/voice with state government  
City employee to relay information to civic organizations and neighborhood associations  
Create inclusive community calendar  
Continue efforts to better utilize the river  
Enforce downtown parking regulations  
Two plus floors of parking new St Clair garage  
Organize purchasing co-op for local non-profits  
Designate person to direct/support citizens through city processes  
Create form-based codes  
Develop severe penalties for demolition by neglect  
Create a "go green" coordinator with county and KSU  
Partnership for a "green" community  
Do something useful with old post office/old library

## Top Five

(Each group reduced the brainstorming list they were assigned to five)

Hire ombudsman to assist citizens with communication/process

Tax incentives to lure/keep businesses/citizens to come to Frankfort

City government become more involved in community

Enhance better transportation/one way streets/parking/signage

Maintain a balance of historic and future development

Use Kentucky State University

A. Athletic events - promotions

B. Aquaculture - promotions

C. Education programs promotions

D. Change community attitude of college

E. Students as mentors

Increase safety of city by helping at-risk children

A. Mentors

B. Funding for programs

C. Educate community about at-risk kids

Expand comprehensive plan to include current plan/update more often/update zoning plans

Offer a place for homeless to go within the city/community center

Amend ordinance to provide a 5% premium to local business that bid on city bids

Develop Lock 4

Proactive on downtown parking

Promote and develop walking trails (Fort Hill)

Better pools

More attractive entrances/gateways into city

Fix sewers

Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (family bike trails, waterways, pool)

Fiscal responsibility

Progressive, creative climate to retain/attract youth

Improve lighting downtown

Unique and consistent tourist transportation

Consistent code enforcement

Water park

Sponsor more events with better coordination (staff position?)

Find a use for old post office

Pressure/encourage owners of empty buildings downtown to fill/use their properties

Business ombudsman (one stop shop)

Checklist for incoming businesses

More parking spaces/enforcement downtown

Educate community regarding available assets at KSU

Bike lanes

Promote arts and cultural activities

Responsible land use planning

More recreation on river for non-boating people

## Top Three

(Each of group prioritized the top three items from the top five list assigned to them)

1. Better pools
  2. Proactive on downtown parking
  3. Promote, develop walking trails (Fort Hill)
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1. Maintain a balance of historic and future development
  2. Enhance better transportation (one way streets, parking, signage)
  3. Hire an ombudsman to assist citizens with communication/process
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1. Encourage owners of empty buildings downtown to fill/use their property
  2. Business ombudsman with checklist/one stop shop for new businesses
  3. Educate community about initiatives, services and processes
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1. Find use for old Paul Sawyer Library/old post office
  2. Consistent code enforcement and update property codes
  3. Improve lighting in downtown, public transportation/trash/parking
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1. Use Kentucky State University
    - A. Athletic events - promotions
    - B. Aquaculture
    - C. Education programs
    - D. Change community attitude
    - E. Students as mentors
  2. Expand comprehensive plan to include current plan and update more often  
Update zoning
  3. Increase safety of city by helping at-risk children
    - A. Mentors
    - B. Funding of programs
    - C. Educate community about at-risk kids
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1. Downtown investment (infrastructure, old library, trash, lighting, local transportation, parking, arts, culture, vibrant)
  2. Build community partnerships (KSU, county government, community groups, city/county schools, state, Frankfort Plant Board, business)
  3. Citizen centered, friendly government (guide processes, assist with codes, green, sustainable, easy to do business, fiscally responsible)
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1. Fiscal responsibility
  2. Fix sewers
  3. Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (family bike trails, waterways, pools)
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1. Responsible land use planning
  2. Recreation activities on river for non-boaters
  3. Promote arts and cultural activities

## **Top Priority by Group Representation**

### **Realtors**

Encourage downtown development/reinvestment

### **Industrial Development**

Investment in art, cultural and recreational development

### **Chamber of Commerce**

Business ombudsman - checklist for one-stop for business (old and new)

### **Not for Profits**

Build partnerships to educate the community about needs and services

### **Arts**

Build community partnerships to enhance/promote arts and culture

### **Walkbike Frankfort**

Promote/develop walking trails

### **Downtown Frankfort**

Downtown investment - infrastructure, trash, lighting, transportation,  
Parking, art/cultural, etc

### **Small Business**

Downtown infrastructure/ombudsman

### **Recreation**

Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (family bike trails, waterways, pools)

### **Tourism**

Downtown investment

### **Envision Frankfort**

Responsible land use planning

### **Historic**

Maintain balance between historic and future development

### **Neighborhood Group**

Ombudsman